

## Good Inflation

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An article in the March 2004 Flightfax recounted an accident involving two Soldiers performing routine tire servicing on the main gear of a UH-60. The Soldiers didn't have the proper equipment to inflate the tire and inadvertently overinflated it with nitrogen to the point of failure. The explosion shot large chunks of the magnesium wheel in all directions. One Soldier was hit in the lower torso and killed instantly, while the other Soldier's arms were severed above the elbow. The power released during the explosion was strong enough to lift the aircraft off the ground and cause significant damage to the airframe. Fortunately, industry has developed a fix for this problem so the same accident doesn't happen again. The UH-60 program manager recently approved a new tire inflation cage for UH-60 and AH-64 aircraft that provides two additional levels of protection for the Soldier. First, it's portable and fits over the main or tail wheels and can be used with the wheels installed on the aircraft. Second, the device features an inline relief valve to prevent overinflation if other safety devices fail and a cage to contain the debris from an explosion or other catastrophic tire or wheel failure. The cage can be requisitioned through normal supply channels using NSN 4920-01-545-0763 and part number SK2000TC-6. For more information on this product, contact Marty Charlier, Senior Technical Specialist for Utility Helicopters, at (256) 955-9735 or by e-mail at [marty.charlier@us.army.mil](mailto:marty.charlier@us.army.mil).